

*Meerkat
Productions*



IN-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GUIDE 2017/18

MEERKATPRODUCTIONS.COM.AU

HELLO!

★ WE'RE MEERKAT PRODUCTIONS ★



ABOUT US

Meerkat Productions specialize in adapting children's literature for the stage; creating fresh and vibrant productions which prompt discussion and debate with students. We are Australian owned and operated by qualified teachers and perform at private functions, schools, libraries and public events in your State.

Our role (and our passion) is to empower children by entertaining them with theatre. We choose to tackle the issues that are difficult for teachers to raise in the classroom. Our shows enable students and teachers to engage in the conversations they must have and our teacher resources enable them to handle the discussion effectively.

In our opinion, exposing young people to live performance from a young age is critical. Our children are part of a technology based culture, and we are in danger of losing the wonder of storytelling, the magic of seeing real actors unravel a story before your eyes, and the sheer delight of seeing a live performance. Theatre has the ability to create life long memories for children and adults alike.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2017/18?



We have another new show!

Our adaptation of Leila Rudge's picture book Gary is now available during terms 1 & 2. This show supports schools in the delivery of the Personal and Social Capability curriculum. Check out more details on page 4.

*"Really liked the themes – solving problems, overcoming fear."
Danebank Anglican School for Girls, NSW*

MANAGING CHALLENGES: GARY



NEW FOR 2018

ABOUT THE SHOW

This show is based on the picture book *Gary* by Leila Rudge about a pigeon unable to fly but dreams of exploring the world – until the day he falls into an adventure of his very own. Gary works with the students to navigate his way home and overcome the challenges he faces along the way.

This little pigeon will encourage students to look beyond limitations and embrace their differences.

TESTIMONIALS

"Beautifully presented." - *Highfields Preparatory & Kindergarten School, NSW*

"We didn't like it we LOVED it!" - *Student feedback, Siena Catholic College, Sippy Downs, QLD*

"Great messages about dealing with fear and worry." - *St Joseph's School, Port Lincoln, SA*

"Related well to our current Health curriculum in terms of confidence and persistence." - *King's Baptist Grammar School, SA*

KEY THEMES

Resilience, Setting goals,
Emotional Intelligence,
Persistence, Determination

CURRICULUM AREAS

Personal & Social Capability; Health
& Physical Education; Critical &
Creative Thinking; English; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 4



UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS: MR HUFF



ABOUT THE SHOW

Bill is having a bad day. Mr Huff is following him around and making everything seem difficult. Bill tries to get rid of him, but Mr Huff just gets bigger and bigger! Then they both stop, and a surprising thing happens... Our adaptation of Anna Walker's award winning book enables children to identify emotions and learn how to deal with them.

TESTIMONIALS

"Wonderful that children are exposed to such relevant mental health issues through quality drama." – *St Columba Anglican School, Port Macquarie, NSW*

"Excellent opportunities for all children to participate. Age appropriate to help embed learning how to manage emotions." – *St Stephen's College, Upper Coomera, QLD*

"I have one particular student who often experiences 'the huffs'. You made his day. ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!!" – *Gayndah State School, QLD*

KEY THEMES

Anxiety in children, Emotional Intelligence, dealing with a bad day, resilience, mindfulness

CURRICULUM AREAS

Personal & Social Capability; Health & Physical Education; Critical & Creative Thinking; English; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6





ANTI-BULLYING: BULLY BULL RING

ABOUT THE SHOW

The characters all perform their own song & dance numbers to help Bellamy understand different approaches to resolving the issues of bullying. The show focuses on strategies to manage both online and face to face bullying. We also discuss Emotional Intelligence as Bellamy tries to understand and manage her emotional responses. Includes lesson plans and a targeted question time incorporating the ideas of programs such as **“You Can Do It”** & **“Better Buddies”** just to name a few. Ideal for schools focussing on bullying into the future.

TESTIMONIALS

“Good lessons that apply to (students) everyday activities” – *Beaumaris Primary School, VIC*
“A great way to connect Program Achieve to bullying” – *Larmenier Catholic Primary School, TAS*
“A strong message which was clearly understood” – *Birchip School, VIC*
“Another high quality production. The standard of performance was excellent.” – *St Mary’s Catholic School, Bairnsdale, VIC*



KEY THEMES

Bullying, Problem Solving, Self-Image

CURRICULUM AREAS

Personal & Social Capability; Ethical Capability; Health & Physical Education; Critical & Creative Thinking; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6

TO ENQUIRE CALL 1300 308 311

BOOK WEEK ADAPTATIONS OF CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS • TERM 3

ABOUT THE SHOW

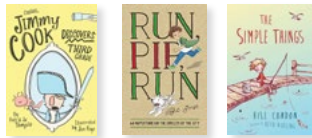
Each year, in celebration of Book Week and Literacy Week, we adapt two books shortlisted by the CBCA Picture Book & Younger Readers Book of The Year Awards. We create a 40 minute musical production including original songs and puppetry. The chosen books are announced in May, however the tour starts to sell out the previous September so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!

OUR RECENT ADAPTATIONS

PICTURE BOOK



YOUNGER READERS NOVEL



CURRICULUM AREAS

English; Critical & Creative Thinking; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Picture Book – Prep to Grade 6; Younger Readers
– Grade / Year 3 to 7



TESTIMONIALS FROM GARY

"I liked the way the performance stayed true to the story. The interactive aspect was excellent – the students were engaged throughout." - *Caroline Chisholm School, ACT*

"Sympathetic handling of the book's message." - *Newmarket State School, QLD*

"Imaginative production." - *Gayndah State School, QLD*

TESTIMONIALS FROM CAPTAIN JIMMY COOK...

"Fantastic." - *Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Noosaville, QLD*

"Interactive and engaging." - *Echuca East Primary School, VIC*

"Great show, very funny. Great adaptation of the book." - *Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School, Croydon Hills, VIC*

2017 RUDOLPH'S RECRUITS

ABOUT THE SHOW

A fantastic, original Aussie Christmas adventure. Join Rudolph in his quest to find a team of local Australian animals capable of pulling Santa's sleigh. Includes a visit from Santa too!! Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer is advertising for new sleigh pullers, but he forgot to put the word "reindeer" on the advertisement. All sorts of Aussie animals have come along to audition, but who can do the job? Rudolph can't pull the sleigh on his own and Santa will be arriving soon... What can Rudolph do?

★ *Includes a visit from Santa!* ★

TESTIMONIALS

"We all loved it...the "Aussie" interpretation was wonderful." - *Brighton Grammar School, VIC*

"The show was wonderful. The children were engaged in the presentation and were very keen to be involved." - *St Monica's PS, Moonee Ponds, VIC*

"Fantastic show! Wonderful performers who really engaged with audience. Christmas spirit abounds – great costuming and characters. After-show question time was also good – encouraging thinking about how a show is actually presented." - *Clemton Park PS, NSW*



KEY THEMES

Christmas, Teamwork, Problem Solving, Stereotypes, Friendships, Australian Fauna

CURRICULUM AREAS

Science; Critical & Creative Thinking; Arts

SUITABLE FOR

Prep to Grade 6





**JUMP ON OUR WEBSITE OR GIVE US A CALL ON
1300 308 311 TO CHECK DATES OR GET A QUOTE**



**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN
BOOK MORE THAN ONE
SHOW ON THE SAME
DAY?
ASK US HOW**



**WE PROVIDE EXPERIENCES
THAT ARE:**

**LITERACY DRIVEN
CURRICULUM-BASED
SEEN BY 50,000 STUDENTS YEARLY**

WHAT'S PROVIDED BY US?

- 1** **TEACHER RESOURCE PACKS TO SUPPORT OUR VISIT AND TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION AFTER WE'VE LEFT**
- 2** **SHOW FLYERS AND PERMISSION LETTER TEMPLATES**
- 3** **ALL STAGING, SOUND AND LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS**
- 4** **AN AMAZING SHOW!**
- 5** **STRUCTURED POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A WITH THE STUDENTS**
"Question time was excellent and reengaged the children in the messages of the performance." - *The Murri School, Acacia Ridge, QLD*



WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

A performance space 5m by 5m, plus enough room for the students to sit on the floor and watch the show

Access to the performance space one hour before and one hour after the show

One power point

That's it!